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Start a new file called (as if for an estimate of Chinese Ground Force capabilities against India)

29 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : DIA Request for USIB Estimate of Chinese Ground Force Capabilities Against India

1. Unfortunately and contrary to my first guess, doing a decent job on this paper is going to require some real effort. We have taken soundings in DIA and ACSI, hoping that they would already have done much of the work and might have available something approaching a contribution responsive to most of the requirements of the problem. Although some work has been done which will help, there is nothing extant which would adequately fill the bill.

2. Such work as has been undertaken appears in the form of an ACSI staff study (Project No: P 3-14, 9 January) and a DIA estimate (DIAAP-26, 5-16514/P-2, 18 Jan) which draws on the ACSI study. Neither document answers the big questions and, we are informed, the logistical calculations in them are based on methodology subsequently called into question by a Rand study which is causing some soul searching in the Community. (The Rand methodology would nearly double Chicom capabilities.)

3. In short, substantial work remains to be done in DIA and the services before we have even the raw materials of an estimate. ONE and ORR can help in pushing this along, and can contribute at various stages in the process, per the procedure suggested below, but we are reluctant to suggest any firm completion date to the Director until the size of the job becomes more clear.

4. I suggest the following procedure:

(a) That the USIB note the request tomorrow, and agree to do the paper. That we ask DIA to tell us when an adequate study can be available. CIA can offer help from ORR and ONE in preparing one, but the laboring oar will have to be in the Pentagon.

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(b) ONE to propose terms of reference (after consulting the military experts to ensure that the right questions are addressed) within a few days, convene the representatives on them, make sure that the issues are understood by all, the deficiencies of present studies acknowledged, the assignment of tasks agreed on, and a reasonable completion date accepted.

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SHEPHERD KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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